

Living by Faith

Lesson 4

Genesis 25:19-34; 26:34-27:34

June 14, 2020

Faith in Action

Introduction

Isaac had great faith in God. He had witnessed his own father's faith when God asked Abraham to sacrifice Isaac. He witnessed the influence that Abraham's faith in God had on his actions or works. Abraham's faith in God was seen through his actions since his actions reflected God. Isaac trusted God to provide a son to his wife, Rebekah, even though she was older.

Our faith in God is reflected in our actions. Works are not added to faith, but they are a part of our faith. We are compelled to carry out God's will when He asks us to do something, because of our faith. Matthew Henry said, "Faith is the root, good works are the fruits, and we must see to it that we have both."

Memory verse: "As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead."—James 2:26

Genesis 25:19-34; 26:34-27:34. What questions or observations do you have about these passages?

What do the passages say?

1. For what did Isaac pray? (Genesis 25:21)

2. What did Rebekah ask the Lord, and what was His answer? (Genesis 25:22-23)

3. What were the names of Rebekah's twins? What were their preferences or skills? Who favored whom? (Genesis 25:25-28)

4. Why did Esau sell his birthright to Jacob? (Genesis 25:30-34)

5. What did Isaac ask Esau to do? What did Rebekah tell Jacob to do, and why? (Genesis 27:2-10)

6. What were Jacob's objection and Rebekah's response? (Genesis 27:11-13)

7. How did Jacob and Rebekah trick Isaac into giving Jacob the blessing meant for Esau? (Genesis 27:14-27)

8. What was Isaac's blessing? (Genesis 27:28-29)

9. What were Isaac and Esau's reactions when they realized what Jacob had done? (Genesis 27:33-34)

What do the passages mean?

1. Isaac had great faith in God's promises. He had witnessed God's faithfulness to fulfill promises several times. Isaac prayed that Rebekah would become pregnant, and she did. What power is there having faith that God hears our prayers? (Psalm, 66:19-20; Matthew 21:22; John 9:31; 1 John 5:14-15)

2. Look back at the memory verse; James 2:26. Throughout James, we begin to understand that when we engage in practical deeds to benefit others, our faith comes alive. How are our actions a reflection of our faith in God? (Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:17; James 1:22-24, 2:22-24; 1 John 3:17-18)

3. God had promised Abraham that he would make him a great nation. Rebekah wasn't living by faith when she tricked Isaac into giving his blessing to Jacob. Instead, she acted sinfully, not waiting for God to fulfill His promise. What does the Bible warn us about relying on our strength? (1 Samuel 2:9; Psalm 60:11; Jeremiah 17:5; Hosea 10:13; John 15:4-5)

4. Rebekah had heard from God before her twins were born, that Jacob would be greater. Yet she still took things into her own hands by having Jacob deceive Isaac. She didn't give God a chance to work on her behalf. When is God fully able to work on our behalf? (Isaiah 25:4, 40:29; 1 Corinthians 15:10; 2 Corinthians 1:9, 12:9-10)

5. God chose Jacob and rejected Esau before they were even born. How do you know you are chosen by God? (Jeremiah 1:5; John 15:16; Galatians 1:15; Ephesians 1:3-4; 1 Thessalonians 1:4)

Applying the passages

1. Do you trust more in your circumstances than in God? Why does it feel like such a struggle to trust in God when our faith feels small?

